

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 06306 111535Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----047411 111755Z /42
R 111306Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8612

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 6306

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, BR
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SPEECH BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGSTEN,
RIO DE JANEIRO, NOVEMBER 7

1. I UNDERSTAND ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGSTEN PLANS TO GIVE A SPEECH AT RIO ON NOVEMBER 7. I AM NOT CLEAR AS TO THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPEECH BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSULTATION WITH ME NOR I ASSUME WITH THE DEPARTMENT. IF I AM TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL I HAVE TO KNOW WHAT HIGH LEVEL US OFFICIALS ARE PLANNING TO DO HERE AND WHY, AND BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE. THE TIMING IS BAD COMING AS IT DOES ONE WEEK BEFORE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. ANY SPEECHES IN BRAZIL BETWEEN NOW AND APRIL 1979 BY HIGH LEVEL US OFFICIALS ARE LIKELY TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD UNLESS CAREFULLY HANDLED. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE GENERATED AT THAT TIME BY BERGSTEN'S PRESENCE WILL HIGHLIGHT THE UNITED STATES PRECISELY AT THE MOMENT WE MUST HAVE A LOW PROFILE.

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2. BERGSTEN MADE TWO SPEECHES IN MAY--ONE IN BRAZIL AND ONE MAINLY ABOUT BRAZIL IN NEW YORK-- WHICH ATTRACTED SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION AND WHICH WERE ALSO AWKWARD WITH RESPECT TO TIMING, AND THE LATTER ALSO WITH TONE. THUS, ON HIS NEXT VISIT HE IS LIKELY TO BE SOMETHING OF A LIGHTING ROD. AT ABOUT THE TIME OF HIS PROPOSED VISIT, THERE COULD ALSO BE AN UNPOPULAR COUNTERVAILING DUTY

DECISION BY TREASURY ON TEXTILES WHICH WOULD FURTHER
COMPLICATE BERGSTEN'S APPEARANCE

3. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD DISCUSS WITH KATZ AND
BERGSTEN TO DETERMINE THE OBJECTIVE, CONTENT AND AUDIENCE
FOR THE PROPOSED SPEECH. THEN WE CAN CONSIDER WHEN IT
MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIGH LEVEL US OFFICIAL TO BE
MAKING PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN BRAZIL.
SAYRE

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